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TC2-12336-62-KH  
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29 MAY 1962

## NRO DECLASSIFICATION/RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS ON FILE

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Director of Central Intelligence

**SUBJECT :** Proposal to Establish New Covert Satellite  
Reconnaissance Clearance for Officers Con-  
cerned with Policy and Representation on Use  
and Control of Outer Space

**REFERENCE :** Undated Memorandum for the Special Group,  
Subject as Above, [REDACTED]

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This memorandum contains a recommended response to the proposal of  
Mr. U. Alexis Johnson set forth in reference.

### 1. Problem:

It has been observed by Mr. U. Alexis Johnson in reference that  
certain officers of the State Department charged with policy considerations  
and with representation concerning outer space problems require limited  
information concerning covert satellite reconnaissance programs. This  
information would include:

- A. What kinds of projects are in operation.
- B. What vehicles are being employed.
- C. Enough information concerning the character and extent  
of intelligence product to permit appreciation of its signifi-  
cance, vis-a-vis, the national security.
- D. As appropriate, the truth or falsity of purported dis-  
closures in the Press, etc., concerning alleged utilization of  
satellites for this purpose.

### 2. Proposed Solution by the Department:

Under the authority of the DCI, establish a new comprehensive  
security clearance and briefing on the covert satellite reconnaissance  
program designed for the officers described above to provide them the  
essential information.

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Handle via [REDACTED]

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TCS-12336-62-KH  
Page 2

3. Discussion:

Special project operational clearances were designed for the purpose of rigidly holding down the number of persons privy to information pertaining to the true nature and method of operation of these ultrasensitive satellite reconnaissance programs. Similarly, a tight billet structure was established to contain the number of individuals who must be made aware of the quality of the photography and the extent of the intelligence information collected.

These security systems, in addition to establishing rules pertaining to criteria for clearability and need to know, also provide for a secure controlled method of communication of information pertaining to the operational techniques and the nature of product (e.g., [REDACTED] and TALENT-KIRKHOE Systems).

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The information proposed for release under the new comprehensive security clearance, although not all inclusive, is such that its unauthorized disclosure would cause most serious damage to the continuance of these vital programs.

Every effort has been made to avoid creating new clearances, since it is recognized that the impact of those clearances being utilized is lessened with each new addition. It must be recognized, too, that the granting of a special project clearance or product clearance does not per se authorize full access to all information concerning the operation or the product thereof. The degree to which a person is made aware is the responsibility of the appropriate official who decided in the first instance that the individual has a need to know.

4. Recommended Solution:

Rather than establish a new hybrid clearance which would authorize access to said operational and said product protected information, the officers of the Department who must have access to this information should be identified by an appropriate State Department official. They should be processed for operational and product clearances via the State Department TALENT Control Officer who is also the [REDACTED] Control Officer. Once cleared, it is suggested that they be briefed to that extent necessary for them to perform their duty.

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Signed Herbert Scoville, Jr.,

HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.  
Deputy Director (Research)

Distribution:

- Cy 1 - DCI
- 2 - U/Secretary/USAF
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Signature Recommended:

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Approved For Release 2001/08/27 : CIA-RDP66R00638R000100150039-5

6 - DDP/SO

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DPD/SO [REDACTED] abh (29 May 62)

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ACTION		DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
APPROVAL		DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
COMMENT		FILE	RETURN
CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION	SIGNATURE
Remarks:			
<p>We will mention this , which was just received from State Department this morning, to the DCI tomorrow and will tell him we've sent it to you for study.</p> <p>② Prepare comments for DCI. My feeling is that the clearances should still be under KH, [REDACTED] but limited access type.</p> <p>DPD Suspense - 31 May 62</p>			
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